THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Mr. Stephen Solarz U.S. Congressman and Chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Asian Pacific Affairs of the House Foreign Relations Committee accompanied by Mr. Theodore Weiss and their staff members Dawn Clabia, Arch Roberts, Peter Galbraith and First Secretary of the US Embassy Mr. Walter Alderson visited Amritsar and Chandigarh on 17.1.89. According to the Ministry of External Affairs the US Congress men on their visit to India had expressed an interest in visiting Punjab and, therefore, their visit to Punjab was arranged. During the visit the US delegation met some Akali leaders at Amritsar and during discussions the questions of entry of police into the Golden Temple and non-acceptance of Anandpur Sahib Resolution by the Government were raised by the Akali leaders.

Formulation of a Plan to Finance Women Entrepreneurs

1708. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a Plan for financing women entrepreneurs; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks extend credit to women entrepreneurs as part of their priority sector lending programme. In terms of Reserve Bank of India's guidelines advances by way of term loans to professional and self-employed persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and women entrepreneurs are sanctioned at the rate of interest of 13.5 per cent per annum and other than term loans at the rate of interest of 14 per cent per annum. Women entrepreneurs like any other borrowers may seek financial assistance for any viable productive endeavour from the banks.

Issue of Licences for the Imports of Vitamins B1 and B2 etc.

1709. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy in regard to import of Vitamin B1 Vitamin B2 Tetracycline and Rifampicin;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has issued import licences to certain parties for their imports;

(c) if so, what are the names of the parties along with the quantity and value for which each licence was issued for each drug to each party during the last two years, year-wise;

(d) what was the category of import licence issued;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry allowed permission for the sale of these bulk drugs;

(f) if so, what are the names of the parties to whom such permission was granted;

(g) what was the average CIF price of each drug and at what price each drug was sold;

(h) whether there is any application pending for grant of licence for any of these drugs; and

(i) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2 and Tetracycline appear in the list of restricted items and Refampicin appears in the list of limited permissible items in the Import & Export Policy (Volume I), 1988—91 and their import is allowed against supplementary licences. IRMAC licences are also issued, to facilititate import of these items in bulk off-the-shelf supply to small actual users.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Particulars of import licences are published in the Weekly Bulletin of Import Licences, Export Licences and Industrial Licences, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A statement is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 94.]

(g) Such information is not being compiled.

(h) and (i) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ganga Action Plan

1710 SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Action Plan is unduly delayed due to warnglings over award of construction work of sewage treatment plants;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for these wranglings; and

(c) by when work on the Action Plan is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) No Sir. 35 Sewage Treatment Plants have been sanctioned under the Ganga Action Plan in the three States of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. Of these, only the acceptance of tenders for the Sewage Treatment Plants for Allahabad and Kanpur have been delayed, as they are subjudice.

(c) 262 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 258.44 crores have been sanctioned under the Ganga Action Plan. 50 schemes have already been completed and work is in progress at various stages in the other schemes. A large majority of the schemes will be completed in the Seventh Five year Plan.

Holding of reserve funds by banks

1711. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of holding reserve funds by the nationalised banks has been continuing;

(b) whether Government have issued any guidelines for using these reserve funds by the nationalised banks;

(c) whether for the purpose of audit of bank accounts these reserve funds are taken into account; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) In accordance with Section 17 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, every Banking Company Incorporated in India is required to create a reserve fund and shall, out of the balance of profit of each year, as disclosed in the Profit and Loss Account prepared under Section 29 and before any dividend is declared, transfer to the reserve fund a sum equivalent to not less than twenty percent of such profit. Where a Banking Company appropriates any sum or sums from the reserve fund or the share premium account, the fact